

48.(new) The method of claim 47, wherein the signal generating moiety is a fluorescent agent.

49.(new) The method of claim 47, wherein the signal generating moiety is a chemiluminescent agent.

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CON-4. 50.(new) The method of claim 47, wherein the signal generating moiety is an enzyme or enzyme substrate.

51.(new) The method of claim 47, wherein the target nucleic acid is amplified using an amplification method selected from the group consisting of polymerase chain reaction, strand displacement amplification, transcription mediated amplification and primer extension.

52.(new) The method of claim 51, wherein the amplification method is polymerase chain reaction.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 39 are currently pending and under examination. By this Amendment, claim 1 through 39 have been cancelled, and new claims 40 through 52 have been added. Consideration of this case, as amended, is respectfully requested. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 40 through 52 will be pending and under examination.

Support for the new claims 40 through 52 may be found *inter alia* in the subject application, as originally-filed, at page 62, line 14 through page 64, line 2.

Accordingly, applicants maintain that this Amendment is supported by the application, as originally-filed, and respectively request that this Amendment be entered.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.